

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES' EARLY CHILDHOOD ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM (ECEP)

Since the 1980s, the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) has offered workshops for child care providers on the care, development, health, and safety of young children. To establish more structured early childhood professional development options, VDSS' Division of Child Care and Development has established the *Early Childhood Endorsement Program* (ECEP). This Program is designed to provide a comprehensive foundation of knowledge for working with children of specific ages.

The ECEP is a collaboration between VDSS' Division of Child Care and Development, The Virginia Community College System (VCCS), and the Community College Workforce Alliance (CCWA). CCWA is the workforce education arm of J. Sargeant Reynolds (JSRCC) and John Tyler (JTCC) Community Colleges.

The VDSS Early Childhood Endorsement Program now includes two options: The Infant and Toddler Endorsement (ECEP – IT) and the Preschool Endorsement (ECEP – PS). The ECEP consists of courses offered regularly by VDSS that have been enhanced with project work and assessment tools. All ECEP courses are taught by CCWA adjunct faculty.

Those who wish to earn one of the *Early Childhood Endorsements* must attend and complete all required courses, attend the after-class session explaining the Program and receive the assignments (15-30 minutes), complete all assignments on their own time, and then return the assignments for grading. Once all component classes are successfully completed, participants will be awarded the appropriate *VDSS Early Childhood Endorsement* (Preschool or Infant and Toddler) and may be eligible to earn three college credits.

Information on registration for Endorsement classes may be found in this Catalog (pages 5-9) or online at:

<http://www.dss.virginia.gov/redirect/?83>.

To Participate

Individuals interested in participating in the *VDSS Early Childhood Endorsement Program* must:

- Register as usual to attend required courses. (See pages 15-19 for class details.)
- Attend all required courses and receive written assessments/project assignments from the instructor at the end of each class.
- Complete written assessments and project assignments.
- Keep completed assignments until after you have attended and finished all the assignments for at least four component classes.
- Return completed written assessments and project assignments to the Division of Child Care and Development for grading.
- Receive a passing score for each required course to receive the VDSS Early Childhood Endorsement.
(Four or more course assessments may be returned at one time for grading.)

Early childhood practitioners who are successful will receive the *VDSS Early Childhood Endorsement* and will be eligible to apply for three college credits.

College Credit

Upon completion of the Program, participants may choose to apply for college credit. To be eligible to apply for college credit, individuals must:

1. Keep all materials included in the program (participant handouts and texts, and all completed, graded assessments and projects) in a portfolio for future review. Information on developing and submitting your portfolio for review to receive college credit will be distributed to successful candidates along with the awarding of the VDSS ECEP certificate of completion.
2. Receive a grade-point-average (GPA) of 2.0 or better on all class materials submitted for the ECEP.

Registration forms and information about the required courses may be found in this catalog on pages 5-26 or online at:

<http://www.dss.virginia.gov/redirect/?83>.

VDSS EARLY CHILDHOOD ENDORSEMENT PROGRAMS

I. INFANT AND TODDLER ENDORSEMENT (ECEP-IT)

The *VDSS ECEP – Infant and Toddler Endorsement* consists of the following 12 courses. Each course will be offered once a year as outlined in the listing below:

Each Spring

Part 1 - Ages and Stages of Development for Infants and Toddlers (pg 16)
Part 2 - Creating an Appropriate Learning Environment for Infants and Toddlers (pg 16)
Part 3 - Planning Activities for Infants and Toddlers (pg 17)
Part 4 - Guiding the Behaviors of Infants and Toddlers (pg 17)
Health Screening for Child Care Professionals (pg 23)
Child Abuse and Neglect: Recognition and Reporting (4-hour class) (pg 22)

Each Fall

Understanding Temperaments to Help Infants and Toddlers Learn and Develop
Beyond Babble: Exploring Early Language Development
Observation and Recording: It's Not Always Obvious
Nurturing Productive Partnerships with Parents
Preventing Injuries in the Child Care Environment

Self-Study

Early Childhood Theorists
Child Abuse and Neglect: Recognizing, Reporting, and Responding for Educators Online Course

II. PRESCHOOL ENDORSEMENT (ECEP-PS)

The *VDSS ECEP – Preschool Endorsement* consists of the following 12 courses. Each course will be offered once a year as outlined in the listing below:

Each Spring

Part 1 - Ages and Stages of Development of Preschoolers Ages Three to Five (pg 18)
Part 2 - Creating an Age Appropriate Learning Environment for Preschoolers (pg 18)
Part 3 - Planning Age and Stage Appropriate Activities for Preschoolers (pg 19)
Part 4 - Guiding the Behaviors of Preschool Children Ages Three to Five (pg 19)
Health Screening for Child Care Professionals (pg 23)
Child Abuse and Neglect: Recognition and Reporting (4-hour class) (pg 22)

Each Fall

Exploring Brain Development Part 1: Every Teacher is a Brain Surgeon
Reframing Discipline Part 1: From Stopping Misbehavior to Teaching Skills
Observation and Recording: It's Not Always Obvious
Nurturing Productive Partnerships with Parents
Preventing Injuries in the Child Care Environment

Self-Study

Early Childhood Theorists
Child Abuse and Neglect: Recognizing, Reporting, and Responding for Educators Online Course

For more information on this program please send an email to:
ECEP@dss.virginia.gov; or call (804) 726-7648.

Registration forms may be found in this catalog on pages 5-9 or online at:
<http://www.dss.virginia.gov/redirect/?83>

